JACKPOT & BLACK CAT

BRONFMAN
LAISO
BELVISO
REBER

MARVEL

MARVEL COLLECTED EDITIONS

Mary Jane & Black Cat: Dark Web
ISBN 978-1-302-94799-6

AVAILABLE IN PRINT OR DIGITAL WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD!

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT

MARY JANE WATSON *wields a gauntlet that can generate an infinite number of random powers for her to use ranging from the awesome to the useless to the deadly.* **FELICIA HARDY** *is the world's greatest thief, a feat attributed to decades of training and the ability to cause bad luck for those around her.*

On the surface, Mary Jane and Felicia don't have much in common outside of mutual ex-boyfriend, **SPIDER-MAN**. But more importantly, the duo share a tenacity that makes them the perfect team. Before MJ got her powers, they pulled off a heist against the notorious gang leader Tombstone. More recently, they helped defend New York City from the demons of Limbo. It was at Black Cat's urging that MJ adopted her Jackpot identity so that she could continue to use her newfound powers to help people. Since then, MJ hasn't seen much of her feline friend. That's about to change…

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL (2023) #1
AUNT ANNA STORY

writer: **CELESTE BRONFMAN**
artist: **DAVID LOPEZ**
color artist: **KJ DÍAZ**
letterer: VC's **JOE CARAMAGNA**
assistant editor: **KAEDEN McGAHEY**
associate editor: **TOM GRONEMAN**
editor: **NICK LOWE**

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31
JACKPOT STORY

writer: **CELESTE BRONFMAN**
penciler: **ALBA GLEZ**
inkers: **ELISABETTA D'AMICO** & **CRAIG YEUNG**
color artist: **JIM CAMPBELL**
letterer: VC's **JOE CARAMAGNA**
assistant editor: **KAEDEN McGAHEY**
editor: **NICK LOWE**

JACKPOT #1

writer: **CELESTE BRONFMAN**
artists: **JOEY VAZQUEZ** with **ERIC GAPSTUR**
color artists: **EDGAR DELGADO** with **ERICK ARCINIEGA**
letterer: VC's **ARIANA MAHER**
cover art: **PABLO VILLALOBOS** & **ROMULO FAJARDO JR.**
assistant editor: **KAEDEN McGAHEY**
editor: **NICK LOWE**

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #1-4

writer: **CELESTE BRONFMAN**
artists: **EMILIO LAISO** with **GIADA BELVISO** (#2-3)
color artist: **BRIAN REBER**
letterer: VC's **ARIANNA MAHER**
cover art: **ADAM HUGHES** (#1-2), **PABLO VILLALOBOS** (#3) & **PHIL NOTO** (#4)
assistant editor: **KAEDEN McGAHEY**
editor: **NICK LOWE**

collection editor: **DANIEL KIRCHHOFFER**
talent relations specialist: **LISA MONTALBANO**
director, production & special projects: **JENNIFER GRÜNWALD**
vp, production & special projects: **JEFF YOUNGQUIST**

book designer: **SARAH SPADACCINI**
manager & senior designer: **ADAM DEL RE**
lead designer: **JAY BOWEN**
vp, print & digital publishing: **DAVID GABRIEL**

sr. manager, digital: **TIM SMITH 3**
digital production: **MEGHAN O'LEARY** & **RACHEL YOUNG**
editor in chief: **C.B. CEBULSKI**

© 2024 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

PREVIOUSLY...

MARY JANE WATSON has had a lot of titles... Model! Actress! Entrepreneur! Executive! Mom? After an incredibly powerful super villain called **THE EMISSARY** trapped Mary Jane in an alternate dimension, she found engineer **PAUL RABIN** as well as two young children. MJ and Paul raised the kids as their own. The couple also harnessed the power of a supernatural language through a gauntlet that Mary Jane can use to wield random super-powers with the spin of the gauntlet's three wheels. The happy family made it to Mary Jane's home dimension, but the happiness wasn't to last. The Emissary returned and revealed that he had created Mary Jane's children and showed that he could also destroy them. Along with Spider-Man and Ms. Marvel, Mary Jane and Paul defeated the Emissary but now have to face an unimaginable grief.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1 VARIANT BY
CLARICE "SAOWEE" MENGUITO

FOREST HILLS, QUEENS.

AND WHICH AGE BETWEEN 65 AND 80 ARE YOU TURNING TODAY, ANNA?

YOU CAN TRY AND GUESS.

IS THERE A PRIZE IF WE GET IT RIGHT?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANNA!

IT WOULDN'T MATTER. SHE'LL NEVER CONFIRM NOR DENY!

"HAPPY EARTH DAY, HANNA"?!

IT WAS A SMALL MISUNDERSTANDING AT THE BAKERY.

HAVEN'T SEEN YOU LAUGHING LIKE THIS IN A WHILE.

Happy Earth Day Hanna!

PETER'S PAIN IS REALLY *MY* GAIN.

HEY! THIS IS AN EASY FIX!

Happy Earth Day Hanna!

WELL, IT'S NOT *WORSE*...

OR, YOU KNOW... *BETTER.*

...MAYBE IT *IS* WORSE?

I'LL GO GET ANOTHER ONE.

PETER'S GOING BACK TO THE BAKERY, SO IT'S STILL GOING TO BE A BIT OF A WAIT ON THE CAKE.

OH DARN! WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO KEEP THE PARTY GOING LONGER!

WHO IS THIS PARTY ANIMAL, AND WHAT HAS SHE DONE WITH MY AUNT ANNA?

IT'S THOSE *KRAKOAN PILLS*, MY DARLING GIRL.

THESE DAYS, I FEEL LIKE A COMPLETELY NEW WOMAN.

THANKS TO YOU.

AHHH!

AUNT ANNA!

GYAHHHHH!

AHHHH!

ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M FINE.

FLOP

ANNA, IT'S ME, PAUL. AND THIS IS YOUR NIECE. MJ. WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.

OR MAYBE JUST *I* DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU?

CLAM IT, PAUL!

IT'S LIKE SHE DOESN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE US.

WHAT HAPPENED? DID SOMETHING SET HER OFF?

THERE HAVE BEEN THESE RUMORS OF PEOPLE ACTING OUT VIOLENTLY BECAUSE OF THE MUTANT DRUGS.

I THOUGHT IT WAS ***IMPOSSIBLE***, BUT...I DON'T KNOW ***WHAT*** TO BELIEVE NOW.

SEE THE **HELLFIRE GALA!** I'M TELLING YOU, STUFF WENT DOWN! --NICK

ANNA, WHATEVER THIS IS, WE CAN HELP YOU. JUST TALK TO US.

ARGHHH!

MAY!

AHHHH!

THWIP

I HEARD THE PARTY FROM DOWN THE STREET. THOUGHT I'D SWING ON BY.

THWIP!

YOU'VE GOT TO GET EVERYONE TO SAFETY.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I'M AN ACTRESS, PAUL. I'LL IMPROVISE.

I'M AGAINST PUNCHING OLDER LADIES AS A GENERAL RULE.

BUT IS IT OKAY IF THEY'RE POSSESSED AND TRYING TO *MURDER* YOU?!

THWAK!

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A "YES."

HEY, AUNT ANNA.

I BET YOU'VE WORKED UP QUITE THE APPETITE.

CARE FOR A PIECE OF CAKE?

CRASH

pik

HEY, CAKE FACE. OVER HERE!

OH BOY...

WHOOSHHH!

THWIP!

WHAM

AAGHH!

USING A SPIDER'S WEBS AGAINST HIM. RUDE.

I'VE PICTURED A *LOT* OF POSSIBLE DEATH SCENARIOS BUT NEVER QUITE FACTORED IN FERAL, CIRQUE DU SOLEIL AUNT ANNA.

I SLIPPED A COUPLE SLEEPING PILLS IN THE CAKE. THEY SHOULD KEEP HER SEDATED FOR AT LEAST A FEW HOURS.

HAPPY B-EARTH DAY, AUNT ANNA. IT SURE WAS A MEMORABLE ONE.

RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE.

IT'S BEEN AN ABSOLUTE *MADHOUSE* IN HERE LATELY.

POOR CHOICE OF WORDS.

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY OF THESE NEW PATIENTS HAVE THE SAME STORY AS YOUR AUNT. TAKING WATERCOLOR CLASSES ONE SECOND, GOING ON KILLING SPREES THE NEXT.

WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW HOW MANY OF THEM WERE TAKING KRAKOAN PHARMACEUTICALS?

WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DIVULGE THAT SORT OF INFORMATION.

I COULD SEE IT IN HIS EYES. THEY ALL TOOK THE PILLS. WHAT IF THE MEDS WERE POISONED?

DO YOU THINK THE MUTANTS ARE BEHIND THIS?

NOT A CHANCE. BUT THEY PROBABLY HAVE MORE INFORMATION THAN WE DO.

I'LL TRACK WOLVERINE DOWN. GET US SOME ANSWERS.

AND YOU'RE SURE SHE'S GOING TO BE OKAY HERE?

LOOK, I DON'T LOVE THIS PLACE, BUT I DON'T KNOW OF ANYWHERE ELSE THAT STANDS A CHANCE OF HELPING HER.

BEST WORST OPTION, I GUESS.

WE HAVE TO ASSUME SHE'S GETTING THE HELP SHE NEEDS AT RAVENCROFT. WE'LL VISIT HER. PETER WILL WORK WITH HIS FRIENDS TO TRY TO FIX THIS.

I ALREADY HAVE CALLS IN TO MR. FANTASTIC. AND IT COULD HAVE BEEN A LOT WORSE IF YOU HADN'T FOUND HER SLEEPING PILLS.

THEY WEREN'T AUNT ANNA'S PILLS. THEY WERE *MINE*.

PAUL AND I HAVE BEEN STAYING WITH AUNT ANNA EVER SINCE...

THERE ARE JUST TOO MANY MEMORIES BACK HOME.

LOOK, AUNT ANNA *IS* GOING TO BE OKAY. AND THAT'S ME SAYING IT BECAUSE *I* BELIEVE IT.

THE THREE OF US ARE GOING TO FIGURE THIS OUT.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31 VARIANT BY

GREG LAND & FRANK D'ARMATA

HOW DID I GET HERE?

I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER LEAVING OUR APARTMENT. DID WE DRIVE OVER? TAKE THE SUBWAY?

IT'S OKAY TO FEEL GRIEF. AND IT'S OKAY TO CRY.

BUT I GUESS THE MORE DIFFICULT QUESTION IS-- HOW DID I GET *HERE?*

I MAY NEVER UNDERSTAND A WORLD WITHOUT OWEN AND ROMY. ***STEPHANIE.***

SHE NEVER DID FIGURE OUT WHICH NAME SHE LIKED BEST.

THESE DAYS, MY LIFE FEELS LIKE AN OUT-OF-SYNC ORCHESTRA. NO SPECIFIC MOMENTS STAND OUT, AND EVERYTHING IS SORT OF MUDDY.

EMOTIONS WILL COME AND GO LIKE WAVES. SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO EMBRACE INSTANCES OF RELIEF WHEN YOU FEEL THEM.

SHE MENTIONS THIS EVERY TIME WE'RE HERE. BUT IT'S BEEN DIFFICULT TO FIND A BREAK FROM THE PAIN.

EVERYONE HAS QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT DAY.

NO ONE IS BLAMING YOU, MR. RABIN. OSBORN'S SAFE HOUSE WAS TEEMING WITH CAMERAS. WE SAW THE CHILDREN *DISAPPEAR.* WE'RE JUST HOPING YOU CAN TELL US *HOW.*

WHAT IS PAUL SUPPOSED TO *SAY?* THAT THE CHILDREN WERE ANIMATED SYMBOLS, BINDING THE EMISSARY TO ME?

IF *WE'RE* NOT EVEN CAPABLE OF PROCESSING IT, HOW CAN WE EXPECT *THEM* TO?

PAUL AND I THOUGHT WE COULD ESCAPE IT ALL AT AUNT ANNA'S.

LOCKING OURSELVES AWAY FROM THE WORLD AND RELYING ON ONE ANOTHER HELPED US SURVIVE ONCE BEFORE.

THUD

MAYBE THIS WAS OUR CHANCE TO FIND SOME *PEACE.*

BUT REAL LIFE ALWAYS MANAGED TO INTERFERE.

DAILY BUGLE

NEW HERO IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

RRRRRRRRIP!

I FEEL STUCK IN THIS ENDLESS CYCLE.

MOURNING NOT ONLY THE LOSS OF MY KIDS BUT ALSO THAT THEY...NEVER TRULY...EXISTED.

BUT IF THEY WEREN'T REAL, DOES THAT MEAN OUR *LOVE* FOR THEM NEVER MATTERED?

SOMETIMES I WORRY THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME BECAUSE OF HOW MUCH I MISS THEM. HOW HEARTBROKEN I AM.

THEN I REMEMBER ROMY WRIGGLING HER HAND IN MINE AT THE PARK, UNABLE TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT SHE WAS READY TO LET GO.

OWEN'S BREATH ON MY NECK AS HE FELL ASLEEP IN MY LAP.

AND IT ALL FEELS SO *PAINFULLY REAL* THAT I DECIDE TO FORGET FOR A MOMENT AND JUST GRIEVE THE CHILDREN I LOST.

IT'S JUST UNREALISTIC!

THERE WERE SEVEN OTHER WAYS FOR THEM TO ESCAPE THAT TRASH COMPACTOR.

YOU'RE WEARING MY SWEATER, FELICIA.

THE GREEN WAS WORKING AGAINST YOU. IT CLASHES WITH YOUR HAIR.

IT IS, HOWEVER, A GREAT COLOR ON *ME*, SO I'VE DECIDED TO KEEP IT AS A "THANK YOU."

CLICK!

HUH?

GO ON.

IT'S AERODYNAMIC, NEAR-INDESTRUCTIBLE, AND WAS TAILOR-MADE TO COMPLEMENT YOUR *UNIQUE* JACKPOT POWERS AND TECH. TO WHICH PAUL MADE SOME UPGRADES.

SO DON'T YOU DARE *TRY* TO REGIFT IT.

I APPRECIATE THIS, BUT...I'M NOT A HERO LIKE PETER. OR...YOU.

WELL, I SET AN IMPOSSIBLE STANDARD.

BUT YOUR POWERS SAVED US IN LIMBO.* YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN A HERO MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT, AND IT'S WHAT PETER ALWAYS SAYS--

"WITH GREAT GUILT COMES GREAT SADNESS THAT HOPEFULLY LEADS TO HELPING PEOPLE."

*IN MARY JANE & BLACK CAT VOL. 2. --NICK

NOT QUITE, FELICIA.

THIS CITY. EVERYONE IN IT. THEY'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME.

WHAT HAPPENED WITH ROMY AND OWEN WAS *NOT* YOUR FAULT.

I TOOK THE EMISSARY'S BAIT. I *LOVED* THOSE KIDS AND *FOUGHT* FOR THEM, AND IT PUT EVERYONE ELSE AT RISK.

YOU TOOK THOSE KIDS IN BECAUSE THEY *NEEDED YOUR HELP.* USING YOUR HEART IS *NEVER* A MISTAKE.

AND SURE, MAYBE THEY WEREN'T THE SAME AS US, BUT WHAT DOES IT *MATTER?* THE WAY YOU LOVED AND FOUGHT FOR THEM WAS *REAL.*

YOU SAVED THEM EVEN BEFORE YOU HAD POWERS, MJ. BECAUSE IT'S WHO YOU *ARE*. AND RIGHT NOW, THIS CORRUPT CESSPOOL OF A CITY COULD REALLY USE ANOTHER HERO.

SO DON'T BE AN IDIOT, OKAY?

HOW DID I GET HERE?

I USED TO THINK IT WAS A COMPLICATED QUESTION. BUT IT'S NOT. MY KIDS *WERE* REAL DAMMIT. I LOVED THEM, AND THEY NEEDED MY HELP.

SO I HELPED THEM.

AND I'M GOING TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE TOO.

AND THAT'S WHERE I'VE GOT AN ADVANTAGE.

CRASHHH!!

AHHHHH!!

PETER HAS SAID IT FOR YEARS, AND NOW I THINK I *FINALLY* UNDERSTAND...

HELP!

WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

FACE IT, NEW YORK CITY, YOU JUST HIT THE JACKPOT!

JACKPOT 1

GANG WAR

TERRITORIES

OUR *CHOICES* LEAD US EXACTLY WHERE WE'RE MEANT TO BE.

POP

POP

POP

POP

POP

JACKPOT... WHAT A DUMB NAME.

NOT SURE WHAT CASINO GAVE YOU THESE *KIDDIE-CORNER* POWERS, BUT THEY SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU-- WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS SHOULD ***STAY*** IN VEGAS.

AAAAAH!

BRAAAPP

ZZZT

SO IT'S FAIR TO ASK WHICH OF *MY* CHOICES LANDED ME HERE...

COME ON, COME ON.

EARLIER THAT DAY.

IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU BOTH IN SUCH GOOD SPIRITS.

SHALL WE DISCUSS THOSE JOURNAL EXERCISES I ASSIGNED LAST WEEK?

I'VE GOT MINE RIGHT HERE.

BROWN-NOSER.

VERY NICE, PAUL.

HOW DID YOU FIND THE QUESTIONS, MARY JANE?

WELL... THE *PLAN* WAS TO DO THE EXERCISES, BUT...

SOMETHING STOPPED YOU.

...

I THINK I'VE BEEN FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO PUT MY FEARS DOWN ON THE PAGE. IT'S ALMOST LIKE WRITING THEM DOWN GIVES THEM MORE POWER.

UNEARTHING YOUR FEARS CAN BE DIFFICULT, BUT I PROMISE CONFRONTING THEM CAN OFTENTIMES BRING *CLARITY.*

SHOW US A PATH THROUGH THE DARK.

I'LL TRY TO GET THROUGH THE QUESTIONS THIS WEEK.

NO RUSH. THE WAY YOU'VE OPENED UP NOW ALREADY SHOWS IMMENSE PROGRESS.

BROWN-NOSER.

SUNRISE COUNSELING CLINIC

CASSIDY'S PUB

OPEN

WHICH DO YOU THINK CAME FIRST? THE GRIEF-COUNSELING CLINIC OR THE BAR NEXT DOOR?

I THINK... ANSWERING A PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTION LIKE THAT REQUIRES WE HAVE AT LEAST ONE DRINK IN OUR SYSTEMS FIRST.

GREAT ANSWER!

WHAT ARE THOSE?

THE BARTENDER'S SPECIAL CONCOCTION. HE'S AN ARTISTE!

OH GOD.

CHEERS TO IT ONLY GETTING BETTER FROM THIS SIP FORWARD.

PUFF

BOOM!

LOOKS LIKE I SPOKE TOO SOON.

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?

COME ANY CLOSER AND YOU'LL BE TREADING ON *MADAME MASQUE'S* TURF.

THESE RIGHT HERE ARE *BIG BEN'S* STREETS. AND HE'S ASSIGNED US WITH KEEPING THEM SQUEAKY CLEAN.

SO EITHER YOU *BACK OFF NOW,* OR WE'LL BE FORCED TO MOP THEM UP WITH YOUR BLOOD.

TV SHOP

TV SHOP

CAS[illegible]'S PUB

WEAPONS UP, SOLDIERS!

FIRE!

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

RAP RAP RAP RAP RAP RAP

RAP RAP RAP RAP RAP RAP

WE'VE GOT TO GET THOSE PEOPLE OUT OF THERE.

I'LL CLEAR A PATH.

GET DOWN!

BOOM

GO!

BOOM

NICE DISTRACTION, PAUL!

THIS WAY. COME ON.

THANK YOU!

IF MADAME MASQUE AND BIG BEN ARE OUT HERE IN THE OPEN FIGHTING FOR TERRITORY, I'M SURE THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES.

WE'LL BE HOME SOON, SWEETIE!

TIME TO SHOW THESE POWER-HUNGRY MEGALOMANIACS WHO THEY'RE DEALING WITH.

IT SEEMS THIS WHOLE CITY IS ABOUT TO BECOME A *WAR ZONE.*

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.

DING DING DING

THE MODIFICATIONS SEEM TO BE WORKING...SO FAR, PAUL.

DING DING DING

THE POWER LIMITER WAS SUPPOSED TO HELP WITH YOUR ANXIETY.

WELL THE CITY'S GOING UP IN FLAMES, AND THE LIMITER'S JUST REDUCED MY BEST SUPER POWER OUTCOMES.

IT'S ALSO MINIMIZED YOUR WEAKEST ONES. AND HOPEFULLY MADE THE, YOU KNOW, CERTAIN-DEATH POSSIBILITY IMPOSSIBLE.

I SPENT DAYS FINE-TUNING THESE LEVELS.

I KNOW.

ALL RIGHT. I'M READY FOR YOUR EYES AND EARS.

LOOKS LIKE *THE MENAGERIE* IS MAKING A BIG MOVE.

LIVE

HEADING TOWARD THE SMOKE SIGNAL NOW.

THE BRONX.

A SPIDER-MAN-SHAPED RUG IS GOING TO LOOK REALLY NICE IN MY PLACE.

THWIP

OOF. THAT IMAGE ISN'T GOING TO HELP WITH MY INSOMNIA.

I KEEP TELLING YOU TO SEE A SLEEP SPECIALIST ABOUT THAT.

MJ! I'VE HAD A LOT GOING ON.

LET ME HELP LIGHTEN THE LOAD.

THWIP

HEY, OVER HERE!

BROUGHT A FRIEND, SPIDER-MAN?

THAT'S FINE. THE HARDER YOU FIGHT, THE HARDER YOU'RE GONNA FALL!

DING DING DING

VERY WISE WORDS, ARMADILLO!

THWIP

LIKING THESE *VINE POWERS.* THEY WORK WELL WITH YOUR WEBS.

THAT'S WHAT WE CALL POETIC JUSTICE, ARMADILLO.

LIKE THE HORNS? I JUST GOT THEM *SHARPENED.*

HOPE THEY GAVE YOU A DISCOUNT, BECAUSE YOUR PROPERTY-DAMAGE FINES HERE ARE REALLY RACKING UP.

OH, MJ, YOU'VE MET SHE-HULK, RIGHT? SHE'S HELPING WITH THIS WHOLE GANG WAR THING.

LET'S HELP HER OUT, THEN.

YOU'D BETTER ASK *HIM.*

DING DING DING

THIS IS GOING TO *STING*, MAN-BULL.

APPRECIATE THE ASSIST.

I WAS JUST LOOKING OUT FOR THAT POOR BULL'S BANK ACCOUNT.

SHE-HULK.

JACKPOT.

WELL, JACKPOT. IF YOU'RE EVER IN NEED OF LEGAL ADVICE, I'D LOVE TO RETURN THE FAVOR.

YOU'LL DEFINITELY NEED IT IF YOU KEEP HANGING AROUND *THAT* GUY.

JUST HEARD BACK FROM THE OTHER SPIDEY. HE'S GOT A SITUATION WITH HOBGOBLIN NEAR THE MANHATTAN BRIDGE.

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

I WAS GOING TO TAKE THOSE IDIOTS DOWN.

AN ARMADILLO, A BULL, AND NOW *THIS* CLOWN. OH MY!

BUT I GUESS I'LL SETTLE FOR *YOU* BONEHEADS INSTEAD.

MY LEAST FAVORITE ELECTRO. JUST WHAT I NEED...

GO REGROUP. I'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

BE SAFE.

THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE MY LINE.

NOW GO!

AW! WHAT CUTE, SHINY TECH YOU HAVE.

ALL THE BETTER TO DEFEAT YOU WITH.

AW SWEETIE, YOU'RE ALL STYLE. NO SUBSTANCE.

WHAM

ARGHHH!

THUD THUD THUD

BACK IN THE NOW!

JACKPOT... WHAT A DUMB NAME.

LIKE I SAID, LIFE IS ALL ABOUT THE CHOICES WE MAKE.

NOT SURE WHAT CASINO GAVE YOU THESE *KIDDIE-CORNER* POWERS, BUT THEY SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU-- WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS SHOULD *STAY* IN VEGAS.

OOO...YOUR *ELECTRICITY* IS RUSHING RIGHT THROUGH ME.

I NEED MORE!

NOW, *THAT'S* A HIGH!

COME ON, COME ON.

AND I'VE GOTTA BELIEVE IF MY CHOICES GOT ME INTO THIS MESS, THEY CAN GET ME OUT OF IT TOO.

THERE WE GO.

YOW!

OH, JACK-Y, JACK-Y, JACKPOT!

WHERE ARE YOU, MY *LUCKY CHARM?* I'M IN NEED OF ANOTHER HIT.

PHEW

WORK, DAMMIT!

TZZT TZZT

PAUL! PAUL, ARE YOU THERE?

I'M HERE. ARE YOU OKAY?

YOUR TECH WENT COMPLETELY OFFLINE. I REMOTE BOOTED IT BACK UP.

ELECTRO GRABBED HOLD OF ME, AND IT'S LIKE SHE WAS ABLE TO ABSORB ALL THE ELECTRICITY FROM MY JACKPOT TECH.

THE POWER WAS JUST...GONE. I COULDN'T FIGHT BACK.

POWER LEVELS

I'VE MANAGED TO TRIGGER YOUR BACKUP SUPPLY. ONCE YOU'RE HOME, WE CAN TAKE A LOOK AND FIGURE OUT--

I'M NOT LEAVING. ELECTRO'S STILL OUT THERE, AND NOW SHE'S *SUPERCHARGED.* IT'S MY FAULT.

I NEED TO STOP HER.

WE KNOW WHAT SHE WANTS. ANOTHER HIT OF MY POWER.

SO WHAT IF WE ***REMOVE*** THE LIMITER ON MY TECH? THE MORE ENERGY I HAVE RUSHING THROUGH ME, THE MORE SHE'LL ABSORB.

*THAT AMOUNT OF POWER **COULD** COMPLETELY KNOCK HER OUT.*

BUT WE ADDED THE LIMITER TO ***MITIGATE*** ANY RISKS. IF YOU ACTIVATE YOU COULD GET A BAD POWER SET AND BE COMPLETELY OUTMATCHED. OR WORSE. YOUR POWERS COULD KILL YOU.

THIS LIFESTYLE ALWAYS COMES WITH RISKS, PAUL.

I SIGNED THE CONTRACT.

...

REMOVING YOUR POWER LIMITER NOW.

THERE GO MY PERFECTLY CALIBRATED LEVELS.

MAX POWER

DING DING DING

YOUR SACRIFICE DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED.

OH, JP? COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU ARE!

DON'T MAKE ME TAKE A HOSTAGE. I MEAN, I'D SORT OF LOVE FOR YOU TO MAKE ME TAKE A HOSTAGE.

FWOOM

GAHHH!

ENDING YOUR LITTLE DESTRUCTION SPREE IS INCENTIVE ENOUGH.

TOOK ME DOWN A PEG THERE, RED.

MAKE IT UP TO ME BY GIVING ME ANOTHER SWEET, SWEET RUSH?

WAIT! NO!

NO! PLEASE!

YOU LAID IT ON A BIT TOO THICK THERE, RED. AND TO THINK I WAS ALMOST FOOLED.

I'D STAY AND PLAY, BUT YOU'VE GOT NOTHING AND I GOT PLACES TO BE. HOPE MASQUE'S CREW PUT UP MORE OF A FIGHT.

DAMMIT. SHE KNEW IT WAS A TRAP.

THERE'S A MOMENT WHEN YOU FEEL IT. THE ***FEAR.*** YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT YOU'RE TOO AFRAID TO ADDRESS IT, BECAUSE ONCE YOU ***DO,*** YOU KNOW IT WILL COMPLETELY ***CONSUME*** YOU.

PARALYZE YOU.

IF THERE'S ONE THING I FEAR, IT'S BEING ***POWERLESS.*** NOT HAVING THE ABILITY TO CONTROL OR CHANGE MY CIRCUMSTANCES.

BUT I KNOW IF I'M GOING TO PROTECT THIS CITY FROM ELECTRO, IT'S TIME TO FINALLY FACE MY FEAR. RECOGNIZE IT FOR WHAT IT IS.

AND LET THAT CLARITY SHOW ME A PATH THROUGH THE DARK.

MENAGERIE IS DOWN. HEADING BACK YOUR WAY, BEETLE. WAIT UNTIL I TELL YOU ABOUT THE DUMB-ORELLA I JUST FACED.

HEY, ELECTRO!

HEADS UP!

YOUR FLIGHT'S ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE SOME *TURBULENCE.*

YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE DOWN THE WHOLE ISLAND WITH THIS TORNADO! HURT HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE.

NOW *YOU'RE* LAYING IT ON A BIT TOO THICK, ELECTRO. I DON'T THINK YOU CARE ABOUT THEM. *YOU'RE* SCARED FOR *YOURSELF.*

AND YOU SHOULD BE.

AHH!

WHOA, ARE YOU GUYS SEEING THIS?

SALE

COME ON, MJ. YOU'VE GOT THIS.

SMASH

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE, ELECTRO.

SO YOU CAN FIGHT BACK AND WAKE UP WITH SOME VERY PAINFUL BRUISES, OR YOU ACCEPT DEFEAT AND SAVE YOURSELF A WHOLE LOT OF PAIN.

THE *CHOICE* IS YOURS.

I DON'T DO WELL WITH ULTIMATUMS.

ZAAP

HELP!

CRMBL

CRMBL

AHH!

YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE CHOICE TO MAKE NOW, JP. CAPTURE ME, OR SAVE THEM.

OH MY GOD.

ELECTRO THINKS I HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE, BUT I'VE ALREADY MADE IT.

THOSE PEOPLE NEED MY HELP.

BE CAREFUL, MJ.

SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE.

WHOOSH

CRACK

MJ?!
MJ?!

BAD NEWS, PAUL.

I THINK WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO RESCHEDULE OUR DINNER PLANS.

LOOKING GOOD!

THAT SHOULD HOLD FOR NOW.

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST.

I WISH I COULD STAY, BUT I'VE GOT TO GET MY TECH LIMITER CHECKED OUT. YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE.

WE'RE GATHERING THE TROOPS FOR OUR BIG FINAL PUSH, MJ. IF YOU GET YOUR GAUNTLET FIXED UP, WE COULD USE ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.

THAT RIGHT THERE IS A BREACH OF THE SECRET IDENTITY ACT. YOU COULD SUE HIM.

I'VE GOT YOUR CARD.

THWIP

SEE YOU AROUND, SPIDER-MAN.

LIKE I SAID BEFORE, OUR CHOICES LEAD US *EXACTLY* WHERE WE'RE MEANT TO BE.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN MYSELF. HELP THOSE AROUND ME.

JACKPOT'S GIVEN ME THE ABILITY TO SAVE OTHERS, BUT THE TRUTH IS, SHE'S ALSO SAVED *ME*. NOT BY SHOWING ME WHO I CAN BE, BUT BY SHOWING ME WHO I ALREADY *WAS*.

HELP!

SOMEONE WHO HAS *NEVER* IN HER LIFE BEEN POWERLESS.

IT'S BEEN A LONG ROAD GETTING HERE, AND I'M JUST GETTING *STARTED*.

THERE'S A CALM BREEZE IN NEW YORK CITY TONIGHT.

IT'S QUIET. *PEACEFUL.*

AND THAT'S WHAT SETS ME ON *EDGE.*

THE SOUND OF SCREAMS ECHOING THROUGH THE NIGHT MEANS PEOPLE ARE REACHING OUT FOR HELP. BUT SILENCE MEANS THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW THEY'RE IN DANGER YET.

THE TRICK IS TO GET AHEAD OF IT.

USE THE SILENCE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.

Claim the nightlyground

USE THE NOISE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

THESE BRAWLING THUGS ARE JUST WHAT I NEED TONIGHT. THE FOCUS IS ON THEM. WHICH MEANS I CAN SLIP ON BY.

IT'S ONE OF THE PERKS OF VISITING CHANCE'S FLYING CASINO.

ILLEGAL CASH PUMPS THROUGH THE VEINS OF THIS LOCALE.

SO CHANCE KEEPS IT HIDDEN AWAY, FLYING THE CASINO TWO THOUSAND FEET ABOVE MANHATTAN AND USING INVISIBILITY TECH FOR GOOD MEASURE

THAT EXTRA PROTECTION ATTRACTS A BUFFET OF NEW YORK CITY'S MOST WANTED, AND THEY SURE DO COME IN ALL SPICES HERE--MILD, MEDIUM, AND HOT

NOT *THAT* KIND OF HOT

WHICH MEANS FEWER DISTRACTIONS FOR TONIGHT'S MISSION.

I'M GOING TO STAY QUIET AND BLEND IN WITH THESE LOW-GRADE CLOWNS.

THEY DO THE DIRTY WORK DOWN BELOW, AND THEN GAMBLE IT ALL AWAY UP HERE.

IT'S REWARD WITHOUT RISK FOR US.

SO YOU'VE SAID.

BOOP BOOP

Turn right to the control room. Once there, trigger a power outage.

BECAUSE WHEN *THEY* TEXT WHAT THEY WANT, I'VE GOT TO DO EXACTLY AS THEY DEMAND.

I'VE LIVED IN THIS CITY LONG ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND ITS RHYTHM...I KNOW WHEN SOMETHING'S OFF, PAUL.

IT'S JUST THE TWINKLY LIGHTS AND CHEERY MUSIC...

...IT'S MAKING THE CITY DOCILE. CONTENT.

OR MAYBE THIS SILENCE IS THE CALM BEFORE THE...

...STORM!

PAUL, ARE YOU SEEING THIS? A MASSIVE SHIP JUST MATERIALIZED OUT OF THIN AIR.

ITS INVISIBILITY SHIELD MUST HAVE GLITCHED OUT.

I'M GOING TO CHECK THINGS OUT. MAKE SURE EVERYONE INSIDE THE SHIP'S OKAY.

WHAT POWER HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME THIS TIME?

DING DING DING

ARMOR? NOT BAD, BUT IT WON'T GET ME THROUGH THE HULL.

SPINNING AGAIN.

DING DING DING

PORTALS? THAT'LL DO.

WHOOM

HELP!

DOES ANYONE HAVE A FLASHLIGHT?

THERE'S BEEN SOME KIND OF POWER OUTAGE.

WHICH IS WHY THE SHIP'S INVISIBILITY TECH GLITCHED OUT.

IT'S ALL BEEN DISCONNECTED. LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A CRIMINAL ON THE LOOSE.

EVERYONE HERE IS A CRIMINAL ON THE LOOSE!

SOMEONE GET THE POWER BACK UP.

THE ENGINEER'S OUT SICK TODAY.

IF THE POWER'S DOWN, SO ARE THE SAFE'S SECURITY MEASURES. OUR PRIORITY NEEDS TO BE MOVING ALL THAT CASH FROM THE VAULT TO THE ESCAPE SHIP.

GET A MOVE ON!

WHOEVER DID THIS IS GOING AFTER THE MONEY IN THAT SAFE.

AND THEY'RE RELYING ON THE DARK TO STAY INCOGNITO.

THE SECURITY FOOTAGE CAN SHOW US EXACTLY WHO WE'RE DEALING WITH. WE JUST NEED TO GET THE POWER BACK UP.

WHOAAA.

*UNDOM

GOOD THING MY ENGINEER ISN'T OUT SICK.

TIME TO LIGHT THIS SHIP UP.

WALK ME THROUGH IT, PAUL.

HURRY IT UP. THAT'S MY LIVELIHOOD IN YOUR HANDS. AND RIGHT NOW, IT'S YOURS TOO.

HALT.

WEAPONS UP.

CAREFUL WHERE YOU POINT THOSE THINGS, BOYS.

CAT. *YOU* CUT MY POWER? I TAKE OFFENSE TO THAT.

BUT *EVEN MORE* OFFENSE TO YOU UNDERESTIMATING MY STRENGTH.

I LIKE MY ODDS.

YOU'RE GONNA WAKE UP WITH A SORE EGO TOMORROW.

YAHH!

THUMP

AHHHH.

BLAM

FORTUNE WON'T BE SMILING ON YOU FOR LONG, FELICIA. YOU CAN BET ON THAT.

PLEASE-- I MAKE MY OWN LUCK.

WAY MORE FUN THAN PLAYING A ROUND OF ROULETTE. AND MORE *LUCRATIVE* TOO.

Take two lefts, then a right to the escape ship.

Meet at the rendezvous location.

THEY GOT THE LIGHTS ON SOONER THAN EXPECTED.

TIME TO PICK UP THE PACE

AAAAND WE'RE BACK ONLINE. THANKS, PAUL.

WHAT IS AN ENGINEERING DEGREE GOOD FOR IF NOT REWIRING FLYING SUPER-CASINOS?!

THOSE SECURITY CAMS SHOULD HAVE ANGLES ON THE SAFE. DO YOU SEE ANYONE?

MJ?

SORRY... CAT GOT MY TONGUE.

THERE ARE CERTAIN PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO COUNT DOWN FROM THREE

THEY HAVE TOO MUCH TIME ON THEIR HANDS.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MORE OF A "TWO, ONE" GIRL MYSELF.

TWO, ONE, GO--

AUTO-PILOT ON.

SHE'S A NATURAL, FOLKS!

BWOMP

OOOMPH.

MIND IF I CATCH A LIFT?

OOH, STYLISH, SOFT, *AND* THEY COME WITH POCKETS.

EVEN CROOKS DESERVE A PAIR OF COMFY PANTS AT THE END OF A LONG NIGHT.

WHAT'S IT GONNA COST ME?

I WANT TO KNOW *WHY* YOU ROBBED CHANCE'S CASINO.

COME ON, I'M ON YOUR SIDE. DID I NOT LET YOU KEEP SOME OF THE MONEY?

YOU GAVE MOST OF IT TO CHARITY.

FELICIA...

IF YOU WANT THE FULL SONG AND DANCE, YOU'D HAVE TO ASK THE PERSON ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THESE MESSAGES.

SOMEONE'S BEEN BLACK-MAILING YOU?

IT'S THIS APP CALLED *OBSCURA.*

IT JUST SHOWED UP ON MY PHONE ONE DAY, AND I STARTED GETTING REQUESTS TO ROB BANKS, STEAL CONFIDENTIAL FILES...

THEY SAID IF I DIDN'T FOLLOW THROUGH ON THEIR ORDERS, THEY'D TAKE ME OUT.

Await further instruction.

IF THEY SEND ANYONE AFTER YOU, THEY'LL BE DOWN A HELL OF A LOT OF ASSASSINS.

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, BABE. THE APP HAS ALMOST THE WHOLE CITY UNDER THEIR CONTROL. THEY'RE ALL BEING THREATENED, WHICH MEANS ANYONE OR EVERYONE AROUND US COULD BE THE ENEMY.

PAUL, CAN YOU TRACK THESE OBSCURA PEOPLE DOWN?

I'LL JUST NEED ACCESS TO FELICIA'S PHONE.

NO. IF YOU HACK THEM, THEY'LL HACK YOU RIGHT BACK AND SPILL YOUR BLOOD ALL OVER THIS NICE RUG.

THEN WE'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY.

I LOVE YOUR "RAH RAH" AVENGERS SPIRIT, BUT IF YOU'RE INVOLVED, THEY'LL KNOW I TALKED, AND THAT'S *MY* NECK ON THE LINE.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP, PRETEND YOU NEVER HEARD ANY OF THIS, AND LET ME HANDLE IT ON MY OWN. PLEASE.

THESE *"OBSCURA"* PEOPLE ARE JUST COWARDS HIDING BEHIND COMPUTER SCREENS.

I'M NOT SCARED OF THEM.

YOU *SHOULD* BE.

FELICIA SAID TO LEAVE IT ALONE...

...BUT I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING SHE'S NOT TELLING ME.

DING

WATER MANIPULATION. NOT RIGHT NOW.

BECAUSE WHILE FEAR IS A MONSTER THAT FORCES MOST PEOPLE INTO HIDING, IT'S ALWAYS MOTIVATED FELICIA.

DING DING DING

THERE WE GO.

PUSHED HER TO RUN EVEN FASTER. FIGHT BACK HARDER.

SO IF THIS BLACKMAILER'S GOT FELICIA HIDING UNDER HER BED...

...IT CAN'T BE BECAUSE SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT HER OWN SAFETY.

IT'S BECAUSE THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE IN THE PICTURE.

SOMEONE SHE'S TRYING TO *PROTECT.*

THIS SMELLS AMAZING.

THAT'S A FACE MASK, YOU HEATHEN.

THEN MY ESOPHAGUS IS GOING TO BE VERY HYDRATED AND REJUVENATED.

GROSS!

FINE, YOU WIN. BUT I'M *STARVING.* SHOULD WE ORDER IN?

I DON'T KNOW. ISN'T ALL THAT PLASTIC PACKAGING JUST GOING TO END UP IN THE OCEAN?

I COULD MAKE SOMETHING.

ALL WE'VE GOT ARE THOSE STEAKS, AND ISN'T THE MEAT INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTING TO THE EXTINCTION OF THOUSANDS OF SPECIES?

I GUESS THE QUESTION IS-- IS OUR LOVE WORTH ALL THE PAIN?

ABSOLUTELY.

I'LL GET THE STEAKS.

KNOCK KNOCK

SO *YOU'RE* THE CREEP WHO WAS FOLLOWING ME.

I THOUGHT FRIENDSHIP CAME WITH SOME SORT OF LOYALTY PACT.

BUT FRIENDS ARE NEW TO ME, SO WHY DON'T YOU FILL ME IN ON THE RULES?

AND NOW I KNOW IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT THREATENING YOU. THEY'RE THREATENING *HER.* WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME?

SHARING'S NEVER BEEN MY STYLE.

WELL, UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, SHARING IS A VERY IMPORTANT RULE IN FRIENDSHIP.

I THOUGHT IF I COULD FIGURE OUT WHY OBSCURA SCARED YOU SO MUCH, I COULD FIND A WAY TO HELP.

HER NAME'S AMELIA. I MET HER FIVE MONTHS AGO. SHE'S GREAT. AND IT WAS ALL GOING FINE UNTIL OBSCURA STARTED MESSAGING ME.

THEY SAID THEY'D GO AFTER HER IF I DIDN'T DO EXACTLY AS THEY SAID. SO, YEAH, I HAVEN'T WANTED TO RUFFLE ANY OF THEIR SLIMY, SCALY FEATHERS.

OR BRING ANYONE ELSE INTO IT.

AND NOW THAT I *HAVE* BROUGHT YOU IN... YOU'RE *SMILING* AT MY SUFFERING?

SORRY. IT'S JUST BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU THIS HAPPY WITH SOMEONE.

THIS IN LOVE.

THAT'S A STRONG ACCUSATION, RED.

HONESTY'S ALSO A VERY IMPORTANT RULE IN FRIENDSHIP.

YOU HEROES AND YOUR RULES.

DOESN'T IT EVER GET EXHAUSTING?

DAMN. THESE STEAKS ARE GOING TO TAKE, LIKE, SIX HOURS TO DEFROST.

FELICIA, YOU THERE?

JUST GIVE ME SOME TIME TO TIPTOE AROUND OBSCURA. GET THE ADVANTAGE. ONCE I DO, I PROMISE I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL.

HAVING PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT IS ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS IN THIS WORLD.

EVERYTHING OKAY?

I WAS JUST SHOOING AWAY THAT CHATTY PIGEON.

BUT SOMETIMES, IT CAN ALSO FEEL LIKE ONE OF ITS GREATEST TRAGEDIES.

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE IN THIS LINE OF WORK. I'VE SEEN PETER'S FEAR FOR ME TEAR HIM APART.

AND I DON'T EVER WANT FELICIA TO BE IN THAT POSITION.

MJ. I THINK I'VE GOT SOME-THING.

BACK HOME.

FELICIA'S PHONE AUTOMATICALLY CONNECTED TO THE WI-FI WHILE SHE WAS HERE.

IT GAVE ME ACCESS TO HER PHONE AND THE "OBSCURA" APP.

I KNOW FELICIA DIDN'T WANT US INTERFERING, SO IF YOU WANT ME TO STOP ALL OF THIS--

NO. WE NEED TO DO THIS. *FOR HER.*

CAN YOU TRACK THE SIGNAL?

I KEEP GETTING RE-DIRECTED. THESE OBSCURA ENGINEERS ARE PROS. *BUT SO AM I.*

I WAS ABLE TO DIG UP PIECES OF THE APP'S SOURCE CODE. IT'S AN EXACT MATCH FOR CODE DEVELOPED BY THE COMPANY "KINETIC FLOW."

WHY DOES THAT NAME SOUND FAMILIAR?

THEY'RE THE ONES WHO DEVELOPED THAT VIRAL APP "LIFE2-EXTREME."

IT SUGGESTS EVENTS IN YOUR AREA BASED ON YOUR SOCIALS.

WHICH MEANS THEY'D HAVE ACCESS TO ALMOST EVERY-ONE'S DATA.

LOOKS LIKE WE FOUND OUR OBSCURA.

NICE WORK, PAUL. SEND ME THEIR ADDRESS.

IF KINETIC FLOW'S NOT GONNA ASK PERMISSION BEFORE GETTING CLOSE AND PERSONAL, I DON'T NEED TO EITHER.

KINETIC FLOW.

DID YOU NEED HARD COPIES OF THE SPREAD-SHEETS?

I'M OKAY FOR NOW.

OUR NEXT MEETING'S NOT FOR ANOTHER THREE HOURS. WHY DON'T YOU CATCH SOME SHUT-EYE IN THE NAP ROOM?

AND CLOSE THE DOOR, PLEASE.

OKAY IF I LEAVE THE WINDOWS OPEN?

WHAT THE HELL?

WYATT HARRIS, FOUNDER OF KINETIC FLOW.

WHO ARE YOU?

HAVING YOUR EMPLOYEES PULL ALL-NIGHTERS IS BAD FOR PRODUCTIVITY AND OVERALL MORALE. THAT ALONE *SHOULD* BE A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

BUT BUILDING A BLACKMAIL APP THAT FORCES USERS TO DO YOUR EVIL BIDDING...WELL, THAT *DEFINITELY IS.*

HI, SECURITY--

SINCE YOU'RE SUCH A FAN OF BLACKMAIL-- EITHER SHUT DOWN YOUR APP...

...OR I'LL USE MY POWERS TO RELEASE EVERY SLIMY TEXT YOU'VE EVER SENT WITH "OBSCURA."

I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT APP. I *SWEAR.*

LIVE LOUD USES THE SAME SOURCE CODE AS OBSCURA.

IT WAS STOLEN.

ALL OF IT WAS STOLEN BY--

UH-OH.

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

GET DOWN.

BLAM

THIS WAY.

WHOA.

GET HER!

DING DING DING

THIS'LL WORK.

WHOOSH

GAH!

#&%$!

AN APOLOGY FOR COMING AT ME WITH THOSE BILLIARD BALLS IS HIGHLY ADVISABLE RIGHT NOW.

I'M SORRY. I REALLY--I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO BE HERE.

BUT THEY SAID THEY'D COME AFTER MY DAUGHTER IF I REFUSED.

Take Jackpot down.

TAKE HER DOWN!

AHH!

ALL OF THESE PEOPLE ARE UNDER ANONYMOUS' CONTROL.

THEY MIGHT BE TRYING TO KILL ME, BUT THEY'RE ALSO VICTIMS. JUST LIKE FELICIA.

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE. NOT TO PROTECT MYSELF. BUT TO PROTECT *THEM.*

UP HERE, I'M SURROUNDED BY SILENCE ONCE AGAIN.

THE WIND WISPS AROUND ME, WRAPPING ME IN ITS TIGHT EMBRACE.

AND THAT'S WHEN I REALIZE IT'S PREPARING ME FOR ANOTHER STORM.

DING

I underestimated you, Jackpot. You're strong. Instead of taking you down, I'll make you my weapon.

Complete a heist for me this afternoon. If you refuse, I'll kill Paul.

A STORM TREACHEROUS AND VIOLENT ENOUGH TO ROCK MY ENTIRE WORLD.

ANONYMOUS KNOWS WHO I AM. I COULDN'T GET AHEAD OF THE SILENCE THIS TIME.

WHAT DID YOU DO, RED?!

Take down Jackpot!

I underestimated you, Jackpot. You're strong. Instead of taking you down, I'll make you my weapon.

Complete a heist for me this afternoon. If you refuse, I'll kill Paul.

POINT
POINT

MY LAST ACTING SCHOOL HAD THIS GIANT STATUE OF THE COMEDY AND TRAGEDY MASKS OUT FRONT.

WHAT IF WYATT WAS LYING? MAYBE HE REALLY *IS* OBSCURA.

THEN WHY WOULD THAT ASSASSIN TRY TO TAKE HIM OUT?

BEFORE HE ESCAPED, WYATT SAID THE OBSCURA APP CODE WAS STOLEN.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THE MASKS REPRESENTED OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE EMOTIONAL SPECTRUM.

BUT NOW I REALIZE TRAGEDY AND COMEDY MUST GO HAND IN HAND. SOMETIMES THE PAIN IS SO OVERWHELMING, YOU'VE GOT TO LAUGH ABOUT IT.

MJ? ARE YOU OKAY?

DOES THIS FACE *LOOK* OKAY TO YOU, PAUL?

SHE'S IN SHOCK.

BOOP

You will break into White Rabbit's money laundering operation. Expect further instructions soon

MARCHING ORDERS FROM OBSCURA. THEY WANT ME TO BREAK INTO ONE OF ***WHITE RABBIT'S*** MONEY-LAUNDERING OPERATIONS.

THAT'S A BOLD ASK FOR YOUR FIRST RODEO.

GUESS THEY THINK I CAN PULL IT OFF...

NO. OBSCURA DOESN'T CARE IF YOU GET CAUGHT. YOU'RE JUST A PAWN IN THEIR GAME. IF YOU'RE KNOCKED OFF THE BOARD, THEY'LL JUST FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.

I'M GOING TO TRACK THEM DOWN. END THIS BEFORE EITHER OF YOU HAS TO PULL ANOTHER HEIST.

BUT YOU SAID THEY SEVER THE CONNECTION AS SOON AS EACH TEXT COMES THROUGH.

I'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY.

I KNOW YOU WANT ME SAFE, PAUL. BUT THIS IS *YOUR LIFE* ON THE LINE. AND IF I CAN PROTECT YOU BY DOING THIS HEIST, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.

CAN I WEIGH IN?

I'M LOOKING FOR UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT.

ALL YOU'RE GETTING FROM ME IS SOMEONE WHO WANTS YOU TO MAKE IT OUT OF THIS ALIVE.

PULLING A HEIST IS AN ART FORM, RED.

BEFORE YOU GO DIVING IN, YOU'VE GOTTA LEARN THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE. PUT IN YOUR 10,000 HOURS. BECAUSE IF YOU MAKE ONE WRONG MOVE, IT'S NOT JUST OBSCURA'S ASSASSINS YOU'LL HAVE TRACKING YOU DOWN. IT'S ALL OF WHITE RABBIT'S PEOPLE TOO.

I KNOW IT'S DANGEROUS. OF COURSE I DO. BUT WOULDN'T *YOU* JUMP INTO THE FIRE TO PROTECT AMELIA?

FINE. BUT IF YOU'RE PULLING THIS HEIST, I'M COMING WITH YOU.

AND BEFORE YOU ANSWER, KNOW I'M *ALSO* LOOKING FOR UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT.

I'LL TEXT YOU THE DETAILS.

FELICIA'S GOING TO COVER ME. STEP IN IF ANYTHING GOES SIDEWAYS. I'LL BE FINE.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE NEXT HEIST? BECAUSE ONCE YOU PULL THIS OFF, OBSCURA'S GOING TO START ASKING MORE AND MORE OF YOU.

IT WON'T MATTER. BY THEN, ***WE'LL*** BE THE ONES WITH THE UPPER HAND.

YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T TRACK OBSCURA BECAUSE THEY SEVER THEIR CONNECTION AFTER EACH TEXT COMES THROUGH...

...BUT WHILE I'M PERFORMING THE HEIST, THEY'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN ACTIVE LINE, WHICH SHOULD GIVE YOU ENOUGH TIME TO TRIANGULATE THEIR SIGNAL.

IS THERE A REASON YOU LEFT OUT THAT PART OF THE PLAN WHILE FELICIA WAS HERE?

SHE THOUGHT TRACKING THEM DOWN WAS TOO BIG A RISK. BUT WE BOTH KNOW IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO TAKE OBSCURA OFF THE BOARD ONCE AND FOR ALL.

NO. IT'S TOO COMPLICATED.

I KNOW YOU, PAUL. YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

IT'S NOT THE TECH...

LOOK, I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FOLLOW SOMEONE ELSE'S INSTRUCTION WITHOUT QUESTION. IT'S WHAT MY DAD ASKED OF ME ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

HE TWISTED THE TRUTH IN WAYS I COULDN'T HAVE FORESEEN, AND IT DESTROYED MY WORLD. THE PAIN OF IT...THE REGRET IS SOMETHING I LIVE WITH EVERY DAY.

I KNOW.

IF YOU AGREE TO THIS HEIST, YOU'LL BE AS IN THE DARK AS I WAS BACK THEN.

I DON'T WANT YOU FORCED INTO MAKING A DECISION YOU'LL REGRET.

I'M NOT OBSCURA'S PUPPET. IF THEY TUG ON MY STRINGS, I KNOW HOW TO TUG RIGHT BACK.

YOU MAKE IT SOUND EASY.

WHEN IT'S YOU AND FELICIA I'M FIGHTING FOR, IT *IS.*

CHELSEA, MANHATTAN.

OBSCURA WANTS ME TO WAIT HERE FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

STRANGE LOCATION FOR A FRONT USED TO FUNNEL ILLEGAL CASH.

THE CRIMINALS WHO HIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT ARE ALWAYS THE MOST DANGEROUS, RED.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TURN BACK.

WHY? DID *YOU* WANT TO LEAVE?

HA!

BOOP

BOOP

WE'VE GOT AN ADDRESS.

AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE IT...

I FOUGHT A SINGING GRIZZLY BEAR AT THE ZOO LAST WEEK.

NOTHING'S WORSE THAN THAT.

OKAY. THIS IS WORSE.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HEAD THROUGH THE BACK ROOM.

WELCOME TO YUM YUMMY YUMS, FELLOW SWEET TOOTHS!

MY NAME IS GABE!

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME HERE, WE'VE GOT TWO SUPER-IMPORTANT RULES FOR YA.

THE FIRST IS--*HAVE FUN!* THE SECOND IS--HELP US KEEP THINGS HYGIENIC BY NOT STICKING YOUR HANDS IN THE CANDY BASKETS.

RULE TWO IS GOING TO MAKE IT *REALLY* HARD TO ENJOY RULE ONE.

WE'LL BE VERY CAREFUL.

AH, I SEE PULLING OFF A HEIST INVOLVES BEING A BIT OF A JERK.

BEING A *STRATEGIC* JERK.

WATCH AND LEARN, RED.

CLANG

SHUNK

WHOOSH

DO NOT LICK SLUSHY OFF THE FLOORS! LET'S KEEP THINGS HYGIENIC!

CAMERA'S OUT. THIS WAY.

STAFF ONLY

STAFF

INTRUDERS.

ON TWO.

ONE, TWO!

WELCOME TO THE STRATEGIC-JERK CLUB.

BOOP BOOP

YUM YUMMY YUMS, 417 FIFTH AVE, back area

Take two lefts, then a right to White Rabbit's office. The bank routing numbers will be in her safe.

I'VE GOT A HIT ON OBSCURA'S SIGNAL.

THE MORE TEXTS THEY SEND, THE EASIER IT WILL BE FOR ME TO HONE IN ON THEM.

COPY THAT.

WHAT WAS THAT?

I SAID... WE MADE IT.

LOOKS LIKE WHITE RABBIT'S OUT OF THE OFFICE TODAY. GOOD NEWS FOR US...

...BAD NEWS FOR THEM.

DING DING DING

LIGHT ABSORPTION?

THAT'S NOT GOING TO WORK.

COME ON.

DING DING DING

SHADOW-MANCING.

PERFECT.

WE'VE GOT INCOMING.

SCHWOOP

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT IS THIS?

THOK

GAK.

CONCUSSION BY SHADOW PLAY. HE CAN CROSS THAT ONE OFF HIS BUCKET LIST.

BOOP

GOT ANOTHER TEXT--WHITE RABBIT'S SAFE IS IN THE DESK DRAWER.

WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S A FREEZING LASER. THE COLD CONTRACTS THE METAL IN THE LOCK UNTIL--

CRACK

YOU SEND THE CODES. I'LL COVER YOU.

HOW'S THE TRACKING GOING, PAUL?

I MANAGED TO TRIANGULATE OBSCURA'S SIGNAL! WE'LL HAVE ANSWERS SOON.

THE FILES HAVE BEEN SENT.

LET'S MOVE OUT.

OH, LOOK-- IT'S SUGAR, SPICE, AND A BUNCH OF REPULSIVE GOONS.

GET THEM.

BANG BANG BANG

BE CAREFUL. THE FLOORS ARE SLIPPERY!

THE FLOORS ARE THE LEAST OF OUR PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW, GABE.

AND THE LEAST OF *THEIRS*...

IF I'M GOING TO BE PART OF THE STRATEGIC-JERK CLUB, I MIGHT AS WELL EARN MY STRIPES.

WHOA.

DAMMIT.

AHHH.

THWACK

BHAM

ALL RIGHT, TICKLE-ME-JACKPOT. TIME TO LEAVE THIS RAINBOW HELLSCAPE BEHIND.

FYI. THERE'S TONS OF BLOOD ON THE FLOOR. YOU SHOULD REALLY TRY TO KEEP THIS PLACE MORE HYGIENIC.

HAVE YOURSELF A SWEET--AND NOT TOO SAVORY-- DAY, GABE.

I AM IN NEED OF FOOD. MOUNDS OF IT! A FEAST. AND I'LL TAKE IT WITH A SIDE OF OBSCURA'S TRUE IDENTITY, PLEASE.

IS FELICIA WITH YOU?

SHE HAD A DATE WITH AMELIA. WHY?

LAST YEAR, AN EMPLOYEE OF KINETIC FLOW HAD A DISAGREEMENT WITH WYATT.

SHE WANTED CREDIT AND COMPENSATION FOR DEVELOPING THE SOURCE CODE USED FOR THE LIFE2-EXTREME APP. WYATT DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE IT TO HER.

SO THE EMPLOYEE STOLE IT AND WENT OFF THE GRID, BECOMING...

OBSCURA.

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS...

"...AMELIA MORROW."

THANKS FOR THE ESCORT, BOYS. HOW'S THE OWL?

AMELIA MORROW, A.K.A. BANDWIDTH.

HE'S BEEN WAITING.

SORRY I'M LATE.

NO STRESS. MR. HOOT AND I WERE JUST FIGURING OUT OUR NEXT BOOK-CLUB PICK.

BLACK CAT, BANDWIDTH...YOU WILL DO WELL TO REMEMBER MY TIME IS MORE VALUABLE THAN BOTH OF YOUR LIVES.

DRAMATIC MUCH?

HERE'S THIS WEEK'S HAUL. IT'S WHAT WE DISCUSSED.

COUNT IT UP, AND GIVE THEM THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT.

NOT THAT I'D EVER ACCUSE YOU OF RIPPING US OFF...BUT I DO REMEMBER US AGREEING ON *FORTY.*

OR WAS IT TWENTY-FIVE?

HAVE YOU SEEN THE INFLATION RATES IN THIS CITY? TWENTY-FIVE WON'T COVER GROCERIES.

I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE.

I'M SURE THAT TOGETHER, WE CAN COME UP WITH A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

A THIRTY-FIVE-PERCENT SHARE IS EXTREMELY GENEROUS. THANK YOU.

YOU WERE REALLY TRYING TO TEST ME BACK THERE, FE.

THERE'S NO POINT BARGAINING OVER SCRAPS WHEN WE'RE PLANNING ON STEALING THE WHOLE DAMN FEAST OUT OF HIS GRUBBY HANDS.

WHY DO YOU THINK I ARGUED BACK?

IF WE LOOK COMPLACENT, THE OWL'S GOING TO GET SUSPICIOUS. TO FLEECE HIM, WE'VE GOTTA OUTSMART HIM.

SMART, BUT I STILL THINK IT WAS AN EXERCISE IN AGONY.

I'M THE ONE WHO HAS HISTORY WITH THAT BIRD BRAIN. BESIDES, ISN'T OUR LOVE WORTH THE PAIN?

YOU'RE RIGHT, BABE.

WELL, I DO HAVE ONE MORE REQUEST--IN THE NAME OF LOVE AND ALL THAT.

COULD YOU LAY OFF JACKPOT?

IF I KNEW YOU WERE FRIENDS, I WOULDN'T HAVE ASKED HER TO PULL THAT HEIST.

SHE WAS JUST SUPPOSED TO SHAKE IN HER SHOES LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO SWINDLE THE OWL AND FRAME WYATT FOR OBSCURA.

I PROMISE THAT MAN'S GOING TO ROT IN JAIL FOR WHAT HE PUT YOU THROUGH.

I LOVE YOU, FE.

I LOVE YOU TOO.

AMELIA'S APARTMENT

THIS HAS GOTTA BE ENOUGH TO BUY A PRIVATE JET. I KNOW IT'S BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT...

...BUT THE RAIN MESSED UP MY HAIR THE OTHER DAY, AND I NEED TO SETTLE THE SCORE.

UGH. MY WI-FI'S DOWN. AGAIN.

ARE YOU GETTING SERVICE?

BRR-ING

BRR-ING

MJ

I know who Obscura is.

You're in danger.

ANSWER YOUR PHONE.

FELICIA, PICK UP!

LET ME CHECK.

I SWEAR OUR CONNECTION GETS WORSE EVERY TIME THAT MAINTENANCE PERSON COMES IN TO FIX IT...

I'M PROPOSING A SCREENLESS DAY.

WAS THE QUESTION-- WHAT IS MY WORST NIGHTMARE?

COME ON, MY WI-FI'S OUT TOO.

AND NO SCREENS MEANS MORE TIME FOR EYE CONTACT. COULD BE KIND OF HOT?

KNOCK KNOCK

GOOD MORNING!

ANYONE UP FOR CROISSANTS?

WELL, THIS IS *UNEXPECTED*, RED...

I TRIED CALLING. AND TEXTING. WE WERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, SO I FIGURED--WHY NOT STOP BY AND FINALLY MEET AMELIA?

YOU TOLD HER WHICH APARTMENT I LIVE IN?

...I MIGHT HAVE MENTIONED IT.

SHOULD I PLATE THE CROISSANTS?

I CAN'T THINK OF A REASON WHY NOT.

CAN YOU, FE?

NOPE...?

THAT'S THE SORT OF ENTHUSIASM WE LOVE TO HEAR.

THESE CROISSANTS ARE DELICIOUS.

YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES, THERE CAN BE A LOT OF TENSION WITH THESE SORTS OF THINGS. NEW PARTNER MEETING THE FRIENDS, AND ALL THAT.

BUT I'M NOT FEELING *ANY* TENSION RIGHT NOW. IT'S JUST GOOD VIBES!

FELICIA'S TOLD US *SO LITTLE* ABOUT YOU, AMELIA. WHAT IS IT YOU DO FOR WORK?

THAT'S A *GREAT QUESTION,* PAUL.

LET'S MAYBE *NOT* INTERROGATE MY GIRLFRIEND BEFORE 10:00 A.M.?

IT'S OKAY! I'M AN ACCOUNTANT, ACTUALLY. I JUST STARTED MY OWN PRACTICE.

THAT'S A COINCIDENCE. WE WERE JUST LOOKING FOR A NEW ACCOUNTANT.

DO YOU HAVE A WEBSITE WE COULD CHECK OUT?

I'M PUTTING ONE TOGETHER NOW. IT'LL BE UP IN A FEW WEEKS.

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM.
IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER, TO YOUR LEFT.
FELICIA CAN SHOW ME THE WAY.
ARE YOU FEELING ANY TENSION *NOW...?*
DO YOU KNOW AMELIA'S *OBSCURA?*
THE LAST THING I WANTED TO DO WAS GET YOU WRAPPED UP IN ALL OF THIS, RED.
YOU'RE MY FRIEND. I WAS *ALWAYS* GOING TO GET INVOLVED.
I TOLD YOU I COULD HANDLE IT.
TO PROTECT *HER*...TO KEEP OBSCURA SAFE.
I WAS TRYING TO PROTECT *BOTH* OF YOU.
LOOK, I'M PICKY WHEN IT COMES TO PEOPLE. MOST OF THEM ARE PAINS IN THE NECK. BUT NOT YOU. AND NOT AMELIA.
I KNOW SHE'S NOT PERFECT, BUT SHE'S GOT THIS ENERGY ABOUT HER. IT'S LIKE I'M DRAWN TO HER OR SOMETHING. AND DEEP DOWN, I REALLY DO THINK SHE WANTS THE BEST FOR ME.
AMELIA'S DANGEROUS. SHE BLACKMAILED THE WHOLE CITY. AND SHE PUT A HIT ON WYATT!
SHE WASN'T ACTUALLY GOING TO KILL HIM. IT WAS JUST A SCARE TACTIC.
I LOVE HER, MJ...

PAUL LOOKED INTO HER HISTORY. AMELIA, OR ***BANDWIDTH*** AS SHE LIKES TO CALL HERSELF, DOUBLE-CROSSED KINETIC FLOW. WE KNOW SHE'S GOING TO FLEECE THE OWL NEXT.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SHE WON'T BETRAY ***YOU*** TOO?

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. MAYBE SHE IS JUST USING ME TO GET HER WAY...

...IF THAT'S THE CASE, AND I'M JUST AN AFTERTHOUGHT TO HER, I'LL DEAL WITH THE HEARTBREAK AS IT COMES. AND I'LL GET OVER IT. BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I DO. IT GETS EASIER WITH EXPERIENCE.

YOU DO THIS TO ***YOURSELF,*** FELICIA.

OUCH.

YOU ***CHOOSE*** PEOPLE WHO DON'T PRIORITIZE YOU. BECAUSE...I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU THINK IT'S EASIER THAT WAY. BECAUSE YOU THINK THAT IF THEY'RE NOT INVESTED IN YOU, YOU DON'T HAVE TO INVEST IN THEM EITHER.

AND THAT GIVES YOU PERMISSION TO ALWAYS KEEP ONE FOOT OUT THE DOOR.

YOU DESERVE ***BETTER.*** YOU DESERVE SOMEONE WHO LOOKS AFTER YOU, THE WAY YOU'VE ALWAYS LOOKED OUT FOR ***EVERYONE ELSE.*** FOR ***ME.*** THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO ***WILL*** PUT YOU FIRST. WE'RE HERE, CHOOSING YOU. ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO CHOOSE ***US*** BACK.

COME ON. THEY'LL BE WONDERING WHAT'S TAKING US SO LONG.

I'M SO SORRY. I'VE HAD AN EMERGENCY COME UP AT WORK. I HATE TO CUT THIS DOUBLE DATE SHORT--

WE'LL PLAN ANOTHER ONE SOON.

IT WAS A PLEASURE MEETING YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT AMELIA?

I'M NOT SURE YET.

BYE!

FELICIA KNOWS EVERY-THING.

MJ KNOWS EVERY-THING.

IS SHE GOING TO TURN US IN?

SHE NEEDS TIME TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO.

I NEED TIME TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO.

THE LONGER WE WAIT, THE LONGER FELICIA'S IN DANGER.

I KNOW, BUT TAKING AMELIA DOWN NOW WILL PUT FELICIA IN THE LINE OF FIRE. WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT A PLAN THAT PROTECTS HER.

IF SHE TALKS, SHE'LL BRING BOTH OF US DOWN, FE.

SHE WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT TALKING TO ME FIRST.

THE BEST THING WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS GIVE HER SPACE TO COOL OFF.

track her down

FELICIA'S NOT SEEING REASON. SO WE NEED TO *CONVINCE* HER TO SEE IT.

Queensboro Plaza

BUT NOT THROUGH CONFRONTATION. THAT WILL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE.

WHAT THE HELL?

HEY, WAIT! WAIT! LET ME BACK IN.

MY MESSAGES AREN'T GOING THROUGH. DO YOU HAVE SIGNAL?

NO.

SO WHY IS EVERYONE ELSE STARING DOWN AT THEIR TEXTS?

OBSCURA WANTS US TO HOLD YOU HERE. SO AS LONG AS YOU DON'T TRY ANYTHING, WE CAN ALL GET THROUGH THIS WITH SOME PEACE AND DECORUM.

I'M SO SORRY THIS IS HAPPENING TO YOU.

I'VE BEEN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THOSE TEXTS. RIGHT NOW, OBSCURA'S USING YOUR FEAR AS THEIR WEAPON.

BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO GIVE IN. THE ONLY WAY TO REALLY PROTECT THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE IS FOR US TO TAKE DOWN OBSCURA.

LET US GO, AND I PROMISE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'LL DO.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE THIS EASY, ARE YOU?

RUN!

GET THEM!

COVER ME, PAUL.

CLICK

THUD

DING DING DING

ARGHH!

GET AWAY FROM MY BOYFRIEND!

TWEET TWEET

HUH, OKAY, BIRDS OF NEW YORK. FLOCK MY WAY.

CAW CAW

WHAT'S SHE DOING?

YOUR QUESTIONS WASTE TIME.

GET HER!

WELL, SHOOT.

GIVE ME SOMETHING GOOD THIS TIME.

DING DING DING

THERE WE GO.

FWOMP

GET BEHIND ME.

AHHH!

WHOOSH

WE'RE COMING TO A STOP AT THE NEXT STATION.

ONCE THE DOOR OPENS...

...WE RACE OUT OF THIS CAR AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.

TAKE YOUR TIME. WE'RE NOT GOING ANY-WHERE.

TRACER

SQUID

ROCKET RACER

SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. BANDWIDTH IS ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD.

HI, YOU'VE REACHED MJ. PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE--

SHE'S STILL NOT ANSWERING. I GET SHE'S UPSET, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HER TO GHOST ME.

...AMES?

WHY ISN'T MJ ANSWERING MY CALLS?

SHE'S OKAY. I PROMISE.

YOU SAID YOU'D LAY OFF HER.

THAT WAS BEFORE SHE KNEW ABOUT US.

ALL I DID WAS ENCOURAGE HER TO TAKE A LITTLE PAUSE.

WHAT KIND OF PAUSE?

A RELAXING, REJUVENATING ONE. LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO GET TO OUR HIDEAWAY.

SHE'S SAFE, FE. COME ON. DON'T YOU TRUST ME?

I REMOVED TEN MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE OWL'S OFFSHORE ACCOUNT. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET TO OUR HIDEAWAY BEFORE JACKPOT AND/OR THE OWL'S GOONS COME AFTER US.

I'M TAKING THE VAN. WHY DON'T YOU PACK UP YOUR THINGS AND MEET ME THERE?

SORRY. I'M SORRY. OF COURSE I DO.

SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER, FE. TO THE END, OKAY?

I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU TOO.

PETER USED TO TELL ME THE MORE POWER YOU HOLD, THE EASIER IT IS TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE *LINE.*

TIME TO HIT THE JACKPOT.

THE ONE WE DRAW IN THE SAND TO SEPARATE RIGHT FROM WRONG...

SAFETY FROM DANGER...

GAHHH!

SELF-DEFENSE FROM NEEDLESS ATTACK...

I LOST SIGHT OF THE LINE WITH FELICIA. I WANTED HER TO TURN ON AMELIA. ON *BANDWIDTH.*

SO I PUSHED HER. TOO HARD.

JACKPOT! HELP!

AND NOW I'M ABOUT TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES...

BANG

AHHHH!

I DIDN'T DO THAT.

THAT'S ONE LUCKY MISFIRE.

OR MAYBE I PUSHED HER JUST HARD ENOUGH.

EYES ON THE ENEMIES, RED.

WHICH, AT THE MOMENT, DOESN'T INCLUDE ME. BUT MAYBE CHECK BACK IN AN HOUR?

WHAT HAPPENED WITH AMELIA? ARE YOU OKAY?

AM *I* OKAY? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S JUST BEEN WHACKED BY A COHORT OF D-LIST VILLAINS.

TIME TO WORK ON YOUR PRIORITIES.

WHICH SHOULD START AND END WITH US FINDING A WAY TO TAKE DOWN BANDWIDTH.

THE OWL'S DEN.

TEN MILLION DOLLARS?

WE BELIEVE BANDWIDTH HACKED YOUR ACCOUNT DURING A VISIT, SIR.

IS THAT RIGHT?

...IT'S A... THEORY.

I'M NOT AN UNREASONABLE MAN, YOU SEE. I BELIEVE IN A MERITOCRACY BASED ON SKILL AND TALENT.

BUT SINCE BASIC INTELLECT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE IN YOUR WHEELHOUSE, LET'S PRAY YOUR MUSCLE IS ENOUGH TO KEEP YOUR HEART BEATING.

I SHOULD HAVE FINISHED THE JOB A LONG TIME AGO. BUT THIS TIME, I *WILL* KILL THE CAT.

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT 4

BANDWIDTH HAS TAKEN OVER NEW YORK CITY.

YOU GUYS JUST DON'T GIVE UP!

BANG BANG BANG

AHH!

SHE'S BLACKMAILED CIVILIANS, WARPING THEIR LOVE INTO FEAR...

VOLLEY THE SICKO MY WAY!

...AND USED THAT FEAR AS AMMUNITION AGAINST HER ENEMIES.

I'VE MADE IT TO THE TOP OF HER HIT LIST, AND WHILE I CAN'T SAY I'M HONORED TO BE HERE...

AHHH!

GOTCHA!

KRACK

...DOING THE RIGHT THING'S ALWAYS BOUND TO PISS *SOMEONE* OFF.

JACKPOT AND BLACK CAT--TWENTY. SQUID, ROCKET RACER, AND TRACER--A WHOLE BIG WHOPPING ZERO.

IT'S SAFE TO COME OUT NOW, PAUL.

THANKS. I DON'T MISS THIS SORT OF THING IN MY LIFE ALL THE TIME.

I'VE COME TO REALLY APPRECIATE THE SIDELINES.

I'LL GET US A TAXI.

BASED ON THAT ATTACK, I'M GUESSING AMELIA KNOWS *WE* KNOW SHE'S BEHIND OBSCURA.

I TOLD HER TO LEAVE YOU ALONE. BUT SHE DIDN'T GET INTO THIS BUSINESS BECAUSE TRUST COMES *EASY* TO HER.

THANKS FOR COMING BACK FOR US.

YOU'RE AS CLOSE TO A FRIEND AS I'VE GOT, RED...

...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN ALWAYS BE THERE RIGHT WHEN YOU NEED ME.

YOU LOST ME.

THIS MORNING, YOU SAID I DESERVE SOMEONE WHO LOOKS OUT FOR ME, THE WAY I'VE ALWAYS *LOOKED OUT FOR EVERYONE ELSE.*

I MEANT IT.

WELL, THAT'S A LOT OF PRESSURE TO LIVE UP TO. I'M A SURVIVOR. I PUT *MYSELF* FIRST, AND I ALWAYS HAVE.

YOU BETTER NOT SAY ANY OF THAT CRAP ABOUT *CHOOSING ME* AGAIN.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CONVINCED ME TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF WHEN I BECAME JACKPOT. NOT TO MENTION WHAT YOU DID FOR BRUNO AND DR. KORPSE. YOU DIDN'T DO THOSE THINGS FOR *YOU.*

I KNOW YOU, FELICIA. YOU'RE *TRYING* TO PULL AWAY, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK, BECAUSE I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

JUST PROMISE YOU'LL HAVE BREAKFAST WITH ME TOMORROW MORNING.

WHAT ABOUT AMELIA AND THE OWL? ARE THEY ALSO GONNA GET ONE OF THESE FAMOUS MJ TALKING-TOS?

NAH. I'VE GOT TO CATER THE LESSON PLAN TO THE STUDENT.

WELL, I'VE GOT A TAXI WAITING. HE'S A LITTLE SURLY EVEN BY NEW YORK CABBIE STANDARDS. BUT HE HAS A FLIP PHONE, SO I THINK WE ARE SAFE FROM OBSCURA. WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

BANDWIDTH'S OUR PRIORITY. SHE JUST TRANSFERRED TEN MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE OWL'S ACCOUNT. SHE NEEDS TO CASH OUT BEFORE HEADING TO HER HIDEOUT, WHICH GIVES US THE PERFECT WINDOW TO ATTACK.

KNOWING BANDWIDTH, SHE'LL HAVE A LEGION OF OBSCURA'S ASSASSINS AT THE READY.

I *MIGHT* HAVE A WAY AROUND THEM.

THE OWL'S DEN.

WE'RE SENDING UNITS OF SOLDIERS AROUND THE CITY, BOSS. WE'LL FIND THEM.

WHEN PEOPLE THINK OF "THE OWL," THEY'VE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO REMEMBERING MY MISTAKES OVER MY SUCCESSES. *THAT CAT* IS THE REASON WHY.

SHE MADE A FOOL OF ME YEARS AGO, AND NOW SHE AND HER GIRLFRIEND ARE DETERMINED TO SEE HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF.

BUT TODAY, I WILL SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. TODAY, MY VICTORY WILL LIVE ON THROUGH MY NAME.

READY THE TROOPS.

NON, RIEN DE RIEN. NON, JE NE REGRETTE RIEN.

WE ALL WANT TO LIVE WITHOUT REGRETS. TO FEEL LIKE WE CAN MOVE FREELY INTO OUR FUTURE.

I WANT THAT FOR ALL OF YOU. FOR YOUR FAMILIES TO BE SAFE FROM OBSCURA'S THREATS. BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN IF WE'RE CAUGHT. SO LET'S PICK UP THE PACE, SHALL WE?

BOOM

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, FELICIA?

I GOT A TIP. IT SEEMS OUR FOWL FOE'S REALIZED HIS WALLET'S TEN MILLION DOLLARS LIGHTER. FIGURED YOU COULD USE SOME BACKUP.

LET'S MOVE OUT.

NO SIGN OF HIM YET.

I REMEMBER THIS DRIVE. REMEMBER THE WEIGHT OF THE WHEEL IN MY HANDS. HOW MY JAW CLENCHED AT EVERY TURN.

WYATT STOLE MY SOURCE CODE, AND I RAN AWAY TO MY HIDEOUT. OR AT LEAST, I TOLD MYSELF THAT'S WHAT I WAS DOING. RUNNING AWAY.

BUT NOW I THINK I MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN RUNNING *TOWARD* SOMETHING FAR GREATER.

IT'S HARD TO TELL WHICH DIRECTION YOU'RE HEADED IN WHILE IT'S HAPPENING.

WELL, BOTH OF US ARE RUNNING NOW. WHICH DIRECTION DO YOU WANT TO GO?

WHOOOAAA.

SQUEEEE

JUST SO YOU KNOW, AMELIA, YOU MADE A TERRIBLE FIRST IMPRESSION THIS MORNING.

YOU...

I *TOLD* *YOU* TO LEAVE JACKPOT ALONE, BABE.

Backup needed.

WHEN I FOUND MJ AT THE SUBWAY, SQUID, ROCKET RACER, AND TRACER WEREN'T EXACTLY GIVING HER THE FIVE-STAR "THROW IN A FREE MASSAGE FOR GOOD MEASURE" TREATMENT.

THEY WOULDN'T HAVE HURT YOU IF YOU'D FOLLOWED THEIR ORDERS.

THEY WEREN'T JUST TRYING TO HURT THEM, AMES. THEY WERE TRYING TO ***KILL*** THEM.

MURDER WAS NEVER PART OF OUR DEAL. BUT NOW I'M STARTING TO THINK IT'S ALWAYS BEEN PART OF ***YOUR*** PLAN. YOU'VE BEEN WILLING TO DO REAL DAMAGE TO GET THAT MONEY.

DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE A VICTIM HERE, FE. YOU WANTED THIS JUST AS MUCH AS I DID.

I KNOW I UPSET YOU. AND I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT. BUT WE HAVE THE TEN MILLION NOW. WE CAN FRAME WYATT AND FIND A WAY TO MOVE PAST EVERYTHING ELSE.

I LOVE YOU, FE. COME ON, ISN'T OUR LOVE WORTH ALL THE PAIN?

I DON'T THINK SO.

THAT REALLY HURTS...

...BUT NOT AS MUCH AS IT'S GOING TO HURT ***YOU.***

TAKE DOWN JACKPOT AND BLACK CAT.

HUH?

THAT ONE'S MY BAD.

WHILE FELICIA WAS DISTRACTING YOU AT THE BANK, I SNUCK BACK HERE AND SEVERED YOUR CONNECTION TO OBSCURA.

THAT TEXT YOU SENT ASKING FOR BACKUP NEVER WENT THROUGH.

HELP! *HELP!*

I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU.

BEFORE PAUL CUT YOUR CONNECTION, HE SENT OUT ONE FINAL TEXT REVEALING YOUR IDENTITY. ANYONE WHO SEES YOU WILL KNOW *YOU'RE* THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBSCURA.

THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT FOR YOU TO GO, BANDWIDTH.

I THINK FELICIA DESERVES AN APOLOGY--

OH, FELICIA DESERVES *SOMETHING* ALL RIGHT...

...BUT IT'S SURE AS #&$% NOT AN APOLOGY.

LOOK AT THAT. YOU'VE GOT A NEW COMRADE BY YOUR SIDE, CAT.

FELICIA CHANGES ALLEGIANCES SO OFTEN, IT'S BECOME DIFFICULT TO KEEP TRACK.

WE CAN'T ALL BE SHINING KNIGHTS OF VALOR LIKE YOU, OWLSLEY.

I'M ONLY HERE TO RETRIEVE WHAT WAS ALREADY *MINE.*

ALL RIGHT, BUT FIRST, LET ME SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. MY LOYALTIES MIGHT CHANGE ON A DIME, BUT ONE THING HAS AND ALWAYS WILL REMAIN TRUE...

...I'D NEVER BE FAITHFUL TO A POMPOUS, NARROW-MINDED CHUMP LIKE YOU.

YOU HEARD THE CAT. *GO!*

BANG BANG BANG

GET BANDWIDTH OUT OF HERE.

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME THIS TIME?

DING DING DING

COME ON! I'VE HAD SCHOOLYARD FIGHTS ROUGHER THAN THIS.

BLAM

THWAK

I WAS A FORGIVING MAN, FELICIA. I SAW A RISING TIDE COMING AND TRIED TO LIFT US BOTH. BUT *YOU* HIT MY HAND AWAY. CHOSE TO STAND ALONE.

SO THAT'S EXACTLY HOW YOU'LL FALL.

THERE WE GO.

WHAT THE HELL?

KLANG

IT'S CALLED *DENSITY MANIPULATION.*

I'VE ADDED A FEW THOUSAND POUNDS TO THAT LIGHT POST.

COME ANY CLOSER, I'LL MAKE YOU SO HEAVY YOU SINK INTO THE GROUND.

GET HER!

BLAM

BLAM

CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN THEM. BUT THEY'RE EITHER TOO BRAVE OR TOO SCARED OF THE OWL TO LISTEN.

I ALMOST FEEL BAD FOR THEM.

KLANG

ALMOST.

KRAK

THE OWL'S GOT US OUTNUMBERED

USUALLY, I'D CALL IT. LEAVE THE TEN MILLION BEHIND AND SCAMPER HOME TO LICK MY WOUNDS.

BUT IF *MONEY* WAS ALL THE OWL WAS AFTER, HE'D HAVE TAKEN IT BY NOW.

WHICH MEANS HE'S AFTER MORE THAN JUST THE MONEY. HE'S AFTER *MY BLOOD.*

WHAMM

OOF.

AND I'VE BECOME SORT OF PARTIAL TO KEEPING THAT *INSIDE* MY BODY.

GAAGHH!

PLAK

FELICIA! I'VE GOT TO GET HER OUT OF THERE.

TAKING THOSE GUARDS DOWN ONE BY ONE IS GOING TO TAKE TOO LONG. SO WILL SPINNING FOR A NEW POWER.

THINK, MJ. THINK...

AHHH!

HA!

YEARS OF REWATCHING *RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK* IS ABOUT TO SERVE ME VERY WELL.

PETER'S GOING TO BE SO JEALOUS WHEN HE HEARS ABOUT THIS!

MOVE!

AHH!

I'VE GOT YOU.

JUMP!

PETER'S GOING TO BE SO JEALOUS WHEN HE HEARS ABOUT THAT.

HEY, OWL.

YOU PUT YOUR TRUST IN THE WRONG PEOPLE WITH ME AND BANDWIDTH.

PYROKINESIS. NOT NOW.

OF COURSE YOU FEEL SLIGHTED. HURT.

UNIVERSAL TRANSLATION. COME ON.

TELEKINESIS. THAT'LL DO.

I KNOW THAT FEELING.

LEARNING THE TRUTH CAN BE A SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM.

ARGHH!

BUT THERE'S ONE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BOTH OF OUR BETRAYALS...

...MINE DIDN'T COST ME TEN MILLION DOLLARS.

WHEN I GET OUT OF HERE, CAT. I'LL @#%&@.

THAT FELT GOOD.

WISH I COULD DROP THIS SUIT OFF AT THE DRY CLEANER. IT'S GOING TO TAKE HOURS TO GET THIS CLEAN.

I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU SAID BEFORE, RED. ABOUT HOW YOU'LL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR ME...

...BUT REMOVING THOSE STAINS IS *ALL* YOU.

THE NEXT MORNING.

DAMN! THESE PASTRIES ARE SO GOOD THEY'RE SETTING AN UNREALISTIC STANDARD FOR ALL OTHER DESSERTS.

WHERE DID YOU GET THEM?

I HAD THEM FLOWN IN FROM PARIS THIS MORNING.

I TOLD YOU TO DONATE THE OWL'S MONEY.

I GAVE ***MOST*** OF IT AWAY. BUT THAT HOOTING HACK OWED ME. CALL IT COMPENSATION FOR ***EMOTIONAL DISTRESS.***

IF YOU RIDE WITH ME LONG ENOUGH, RED, ***YOU TOO*** CAN MAKE NEW YORK CITY SCUM YOUR THRONE.

I BECAME JACKPOT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

TOMATO, TOMAAAAHTO.

YOU STOLE FROM WHITE RABBIT JUST THE SAME AS ME.

TO TAKE DOWN OBSCURA.

AND THAT'S WHAT SEPARATES YOU FROM THE OTHERS. YOU KNOW THE GAME'S RIGGED. AND THAT THE ONLY WAY TO FIX IT IS BY SLITHERING THROUGH THE CRACKS.

WELL, I'M ALL FOR EVENING THE ODDS.

CHEERS TO THAT.

THE END!

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31
2ND-PRINTING VARIANT BY
HUMBERTO RAMOS
& EDGAR DELGADO

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31
2ND-PRINTING VARIANT BY
SKAN

JACKPOT #1 VARIANT BY
NICOLETTA BALDARI

JACKPOT #1 VARIANT BY
EJIKURE

JACKPOT #1 VARIANT BY
ELIZABETH TORQUE

JACKPOT #1 VARIANT BY
JAN BAZALDUA
& **JESUS ABURTOV**

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #1 MARVEL
MASTERPIECES III VARIANT BY
GREG & **TIM HILDEBRANDT**

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #1 FOIL VARIANT BY

EMILIO LAISO & MORRY HOLLOWELL

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #1 SATURDAY MORNING VARIANT BY

SEAN "CHEEKS" GALLOWAY

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #1 BLACK CAT VARIANT BY

ELIZABETH TORQUE & TRÍONA FARRELL

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #1 VARIANT BY

JOEY VAZQUEZ

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #1 VARIANT BY

PABLO VILLALOBOS & ROMULO FAJARDO JR.

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #1 JACKPOT VARIANT BY

JUNGGEUN YOON

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #2 VARIANT BY

ARTHUR ADAMS & EDGAR DELGADO

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #2 VARIANT BY

PEACH MOMOKO

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #3 BLACK COSTUME VARIANT BY

PACO MEDINA & JESUS ABURTOV

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #3 VARIANT BY
ELIZABETH TORQUE
& **TRÍONA FARRELL**

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #4
PRIDE ALLIES VARIANT BY
BETSY COLA

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #4 BIG MARVELS
BLACK & WHITE VARIANT BY
SKOTTIE YOUNG

JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #4
BIG MARVELS VARIANT BY
SKOTTIE YOUNG

MARVEL COLLECTED EDITIONS

Amazing Spider-Man by Zeb Wells Vol. 9: Gang War
ISBN 978-1-302-95460-4

AVAILABLE IN PRINT OR DIGITAL WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD!

"All-out action from beginning to end." – The Comic Book Dispatch

MJ AND THE BLACK CAT, TOGETHER IN ONE BOOK – AND YOU JUST HIT THE JACKPOT!

MARY JANE WATSON IS TRYING HER LUCK AS JACKPOT, the most exciting new hero in the Marvel Universe! But she faces a baptism of fire when New York City is engulfed in all the chaos of a super-powered gang war! Then, when someone blackmails her costumed friend, the Black Cat, into a public and blatant crime spree, Jackpot comes to her aid! Can MJ and Felicia get to the bottom of this plot before the Black Cat's rep is ruined forever? And why, suddenly, is so much of the Big Apple out to kill Jackpot? Including Felicia?! There's something sinister going on, and it involves a classic Marvel villain with ties to our co-stars! Plus: Find out how the Hellfire Gala will turn MJ's world upside down!

COLLECTING ***JACKPOT #1***, ***JACKPOT & BLACK CAT #1-4*** AND MATERIAL FROM ***AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL (2023) #1*** AND ***AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (2022) #31*** – BY CELESTE BRONFMAN, JOEY VAZQUEZ, ERIC GAPSTUR, EMILIO LAISO, GIADA BELVISO, DAVID LOPEZ, ALBA GLEZ, ELISABETTA D'AMICO, CRAIG YEUNG, EDGAR DELGADO, ERICK ARCINIEGA, BRIAN REBER, KJ DÍAZ AND JIM CAMPBELL.

T

MARVEL